

Romans

Author—Paul

- His name was originally Saul.
- He was Jewish and educated as a Pharisee.
- Before his conversion, he was an enthusiastic persecutor of Christians.

Author—Paul

- He took at least 3 missionary journeys throughout the Roman Empire...
 - He started churches
 - He continued to teach and encourage those churches through letters (epistles)
- He was well-educated
 - He thoroughly understood his faith.
 - He understood the Roman and Greek culture of the day.

Audience and Purpose

- This letter was written to the church at Rome.
 - Rome was the capital of the Roman Empire.
 - It is not known for certain how the church started...
 - Maybe by people who had been in Jerusalem at Pentecost
 - Maybe by immigrants from other areas where Paul had started churches

Audience and Purpose

- It was probably written during his third missionary journey.
 - He was collecting an offering for the church at Jerusalem.
 - He wanted to go to Spain and visit Rome on the way.

Audience and Purpose

- He wrote the letter in case he didn't make it.
- Paul wanted to strengthen believers against legalism, and encourage them to live obediently.

Themes

■ Themes

- The gospel of Christ
- Everyone needs salvation

■ Theme verses

- Romans 1:16—I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes: first for the Jew, then for the Gentile.

Themes

- Romans 3:23—for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God
- Romans 6:23—For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Characteristics

- Romans presents Christian doctrine (teaching) systematically.
- The Gospel

Characteristics

■ Old Testament

- Paul quotes the OT extensively (in all but 2 chapters)
 - He upholds the law.
 - He recognizes the law is holy.
 - He teaches that the law cannot save people.
 - He teaches that Jesus fulfilled the law.

People

- Abraham—he is an example because his hope was in faith, not in good deeds.
- Adam—he is connected to Jesus.
 - Sin came into the world through Adam.
 - Salvation came to the world through Jesus.

Teachings

- The nature of sin
 - It entered the world through Adam.
 - It devastates human nature.
 - Everyone is born a sinner.
 - The result of sin is death.

Teachings

- The nature of salvation
 - It is only available through Jesus.
 - It is not something we deserve or earn.
- Living Sacrifices—We cannot earn salvation, but once saved, we have the responsibility to totally serve God.

Teachings

- Submission to government
 - God expects us to honor its authority because ultimately it comes from Him.
- Weak and strong
 - All Christians will not see every issue the same way.
 - There are some issues where disagreement is allowed.
 - We are to respect these differences.
 - We are not to use them as tests about spirituality.